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ABSTRACT

As instructional philosophies proliferate, elementary teachers are increasingly active as curriculum makers. Interconnecting the elements of unit planning is essential to dynamic teaching and meaningful learning. To be effective, unit planning must: (1) focus on substance and identify major concepts and generalizations; and (2) design activities to promote meaningful learning so that identified concepts become part of the learner's knowledge base. This annotated bibliography of 22 books and periodical sources is intended to assist and support elementary teachers in total unit planning and guide them in gathering resources to implement a unit plan. Items in the bibliography are grouped into the following categories: (1) overview; (2) incorporating diversity; (3) math, science, and social studies; (4) language arts; (5) putting it all together; and (6) periodical resources. (TM)

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A RAINBOW OF PLANNING RESOURCES

Selected Bibliography for Unit Planning

Janie Schomberg

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Elementary teachers are increasingly active in their role of curriculum-makers as instructional philosophies expand and abound. Whether you find yourself in a textbook-based curriculum or are moving toward or within curricula which support resource-based learning, literature-based reading programs, whole language and integrated instruction, theme cycles, or generative curriculum, you are deeply involved in the planning process.

While there are many styles of and approaches to planning, most include the basic elements of: (1) goals, objectives and concepts to guide student learning; (2) strategies and processes to address concepts; (3) learning experiences relevant to objectives and concepts; (4) resources for your teaching and students' learning; and (4) evaluation strategies/processes/products. Debra Goodman addresses each of these elements for varying groups of learners, whole class, small group, and independent learners, in her planning grid for thematic study.** Many teachers address some of the basic elements in their mental image or plan while articulating others in their written unit plans.

Interconnecting the elements of unit planning is essential to dynamic teaching and meaningful learning. Each individual planning element is only as effective as it relates to the whole. Unit planning needs to focus first on substance and identify major concepts and generalizations. Activities are then designed to promote meaningful learning in order for the identified concepts, as well as additional ones discovered by the students themselves, to become part of the learners' knowledge base. If these strong connections are made, learners will have the opportunity to develop literacy skills and/or content knowledge.

The resources below offer assistance and support in total unit planning as well as guidance in gathering resources to implement a unit plan. There are many other good resources available which also address the elements of planning and how they relate to differing types of curricula.

1. OVERVIEW

Katz, Lilian G. *"The Project Approach."* April 1994. ERIC Digest EDO-OS-94-6.

Presents a concise overview of the project approach to inquiry learning.

Manning, Maryann, Gary Manning and Roberta Long. **Theme Immersion: Inquiry-Based Curriculum in Elementary and Middle Schools.** 1994. 192 p. Heinemann, $19.50. (0-435-08806-8)

Shows how themes emerge from the experience and current needs of students. Illustrates aspects of theme immersion with teacher profiles and classroom vignettes.

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Pigdon, Keith and Marilyn Woolley, eds. **The Big Picture: Integrating Children's Learning.** 1993. 128p. Heinemann, $15.00. (0-435-08792-4).

Helps teachers look beyond day-to-day planning and decision-making towards making informed curriculum decisions which lead to productive learning environments for children. Presents a model for planning and implementing integrated curriculum units.

Strube, Penny. **Theme Studies, A Practical Guide: How to Develop Theme Studies to Fit Your Curriculum.** 1993. 133p. Scholastic Professional Books, $15.95. (0-590-49272-1).

Focuses on the development process for theme studies, i.e. student oriented and negotiated learning, from initiation of the topic through assessment and evaluation. Articulates three roles for students as researchers, writers, and presenters.

The Whole Language Catalog Supplement on Authentic Assessment. 1993. 192p. SRA, $27.95. (87-003537).

Presents ideas, strategies, theories, and philosphy regarding authentic assessment in whole language learning environments. Includes unit-planning model (Goodman).

2. INCORPORATING DIVERSITY

Harris, Violet, ed. **Teaching Multicultural Literature in Grades K-8.** 1992. 291 p. Christopher-Gordon Publishers, Inc., $27.95. (0-926842-13-7).

Presents an informative guide for the selection of multicultural literature reflecting people of color. Cultural authenticity is addressed by 8 children's literature scholars who incorporate strategies for sharing literature from varied cultures..

Miller-Lachmann, Lyn. **Our Family, Our Friends, Our World: An Annotated Guide to Significant Multicultural Books for Children and Teenagers.** 1992. 710p. R. R. Bowker, $46.00, (0-8352-3025-2).

Annotates over 1,000 English-language fiction and nonfiction multicultural books published since 1970. Chapter introductions highlight culture or ethnic group featured.

3. MATH, SCIENCE, AND SOCIAL STUDIES

Braddon, Kathryn, Nancy J. Hall and Dale Taylor. **Math Through Children's Literature: Making the NCTM Standards Come Alive.** 1993. 218p. Teacher Ideas Press, $23.50. (0-87287-932-1).

Utilizes the NCTM Standards as the basis for math activities and features children's literature as one approach to exploring and investigating mathematical concepts for grades K-6. Includes specific teaching/ learning connections for 83 books and additional literature connections to major topics.

Every Teacher's Science Booklist: An Annotated Bibliography of Science Literature for Children. 1994. 182p. Scholastic Professional Publications, $18.95. (0-590-49381-7).

Annotates over 900 science books based upon critical reviews by practitioners. Includes listing of magazines, cross-referenced index and publishers' directory.

Fredericks, Anthony D.. **Thematic Units: An Integrated Approach to Teaching Science and Social Studies.** 1993. 347 p. Scott, Foresman, $18.00. (0-06-500892-8).

Presents designs, strategies, and implementation methods for the whole-language classroom.

Heltshe, Mary Ann and Audrey Burie Kirchner. **Multicultural Explorations: Joyous Journeys with Books.** 1991. 276p. Teacher Ideas Press, $23.50. (0-87287-848-1).

Presents integrated units on Japan, Italy, Hawaii, Australia, Kenya, and Brazil which introduce children to family life, school games crafts, foods, language, customs, and celebrations in different cultures. Units represent one effective model for planning and implementing integrated units.

Levenson, Elaine. **Teaching Children about Life and Earth Science: Ideas and Activities Every Teacher and Parent Can Use.** 1994. 256p. TAB, $16.95. (0-07-037655-7).

Articulates a philosophy about how to do science with children and includes instructional objectives, resource titles and activity ideas in life and earth sciences.

Levenson, Elaine. **Teaching Children about Physical Science Ideas and Activities Every Teacher and Parent Can Use.** 1994. 188p. TAB, $16.95. (0-07-037619-0).

Articulates a philosophy about how to do science with children and includes instructional objectives, resource titles and activity ideas in the physical sciences.

Perez-Stable, Maria and Mary H. Cordier. **Understanding American History Through Children's Literature, Instructional Units and Activities for Grades K-8.** 1994. 296p. Oryx Press, $24.95. (0-89774-795-X).

Features units of study, 4 major historical periods for K-3, 5 for 4-8, which include articulated instructional objectives and teaching/learning strategies and activities which incorporate books to support and achieve objectives. Includes an annotated book list.

4. LANGUAGE ARTS

Bosma, Bette. **Fairy Tales, Fables, Legends, and Myths: Using Folk Literature in Your Classroom.** 1992. 2nd edition. 200p. Teachers College Press, $15.95. (3134-X).

Shows the importance of using folk literature with children and offers support and suggestions to teachers for integrating the concepts, elements and stories of this genre into the curriculum.

Hickman, Janet, Bernice E. Cullinan, and Susan Hepler, eds. **Children's Literature In the Classroom: Extending Charlotte's Web.** 1994. 237p. Christopher-Gordon Publishers, Inc., $ 19.95. (0-926842-32-3)

Generates suggestions and questions for those who wish to make literacy and literature central to children's lives by making books, ideas and connections accessible to children.

Lima, Carolyn and John A. Lima. **A to Zoo : Subject Access to Children's Picture Books, 4th edition.** 1993. 1,000 p. R. R. Bowker, $49.95. (0-8352-3201-8).

Serves as an excellent resource for integrating picture books throughout the curriculum providing lists and annotations for more than 15,000 fiction and nonfiction titles for primary grades by subject.

5. PUTTING IT ALTOGETHER

Roberts, Patricia. **A Green Dinosaur Day: A Guide for Developing Thematic Units in Literature-Based Instruction.** 1993. 284 p. Allyn and Bacon, $ 36.50 (92-264410).

Walks through all the stages of planning, implementing, and assessing an integrated unit on dinosaurs.

Teaching Young Children Using Themes: Preschool-Grade 1. 1991 544p. GoodYear Books, $29.95. (0-673-46057-6).

Provides a tool for creating wholistic, integrated early education programs for young children by presenting 24 thematic units focusing on social studies, science, language arts and mathematics concepts as well as over 1,400 activities including class-tested models and a theme planning worksheet for creating your own unit plans.

Periodical Resources for Unit Planning:

AIMS Newsletter (Activities Integrating Math and Science)
AIMS Education Foundation
P.O. Box 8120
Fresno, CA 93747-8120
Annual Subscription: $25.00 (10 issues)
ALSO publishes separate volumes focusing on single topics

BOOK LINKS: Connecting Books, Libraries, and Classrooms
434 W. Downer
Aurora, IL 60506
Annual Subscription: $20.00 (bimonthly)

The WEB
Ohio State University
Room 200, Ramseyer Hall
29 West Woodruff
Columbus, Ohio 43210
Three issues annually: $10.00

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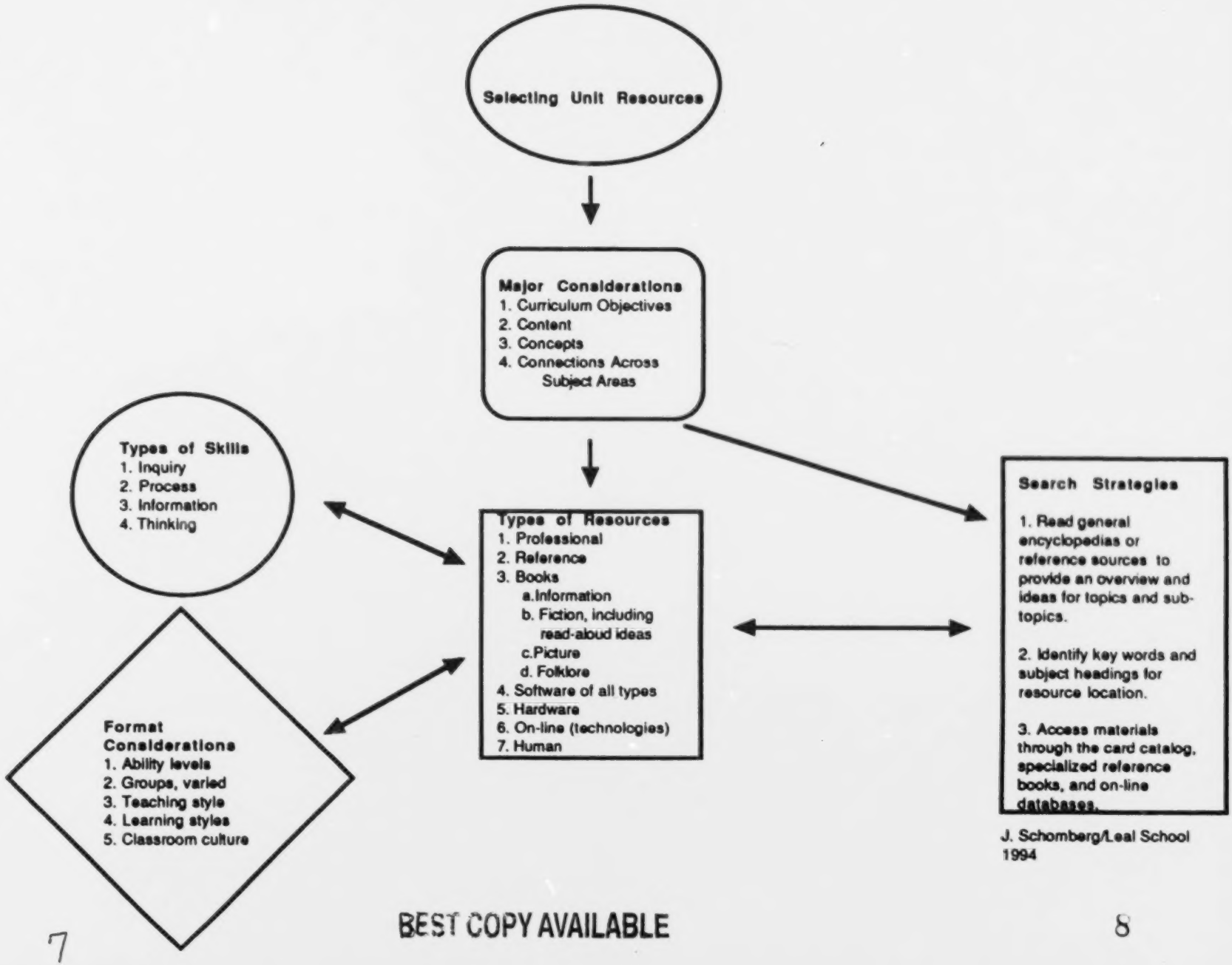
Library Media Center
312 W. Oregon
Urbana, IL 61801



J. Schomberg/Leal School
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